



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sturgis, S.D. - The Meade County Senior Nutrition Program is coming back to the Sturgis community. An advisory board for this program has already been formed and officers have been elected.

Because the previous contract holders have decided not to renew the Senior Nutrition Program contract, the Department of Social Services, Division of Adult Services and Aging (DSS) have issued a new contract to fund the program. On May 14, 2012 DSS requested letters of interest from different Northern Hills' entities who would be interested in providing senior meals with the goal of issuing a new contract by July 1, 2012.

Meade County has been without a meals program for several years causing community members to rely on the Sturgis Senior Center to meet their nutritional needs. The newly implemented program will have the meals prepared at Heritage Acres. Meals will be served there as well as at Hillview Highrise Apartments. In addition to offering these two serving locations for Sturgis residents who would like to eat with others, meals will be delivered to those living independently in their own homes. The nutrition program is available for those persons 60 years of age and older and those with disabilities living in congregate housing. The goal is to provide well-balanced, nutritious meals, social opportunities, reduce isolation for those living alone, and give seniors the peace of mind that comes with reliable and consistent access to meals no matter what their economic status.

The first board meeting was held May 31, 2012 at Sturgis City Hall. Three officers were elected and a nine member board was formed. Deb Baker, President of Pro/Rental Management, is the board president. Rosemary Roth, Marketing Officer at First Interstate Bank, is the vice president. Sherry Scudder with Hillview Highrise Apartments is the board secretary. The additional five board members are Mark Carstensen, Sturgis Mayor; Van Hyde, Sturgis Regional Hospital CEO; Roy Anderson, retiree and meals program participant; Dwayne Hayes, retiree; Doreen Creed, Meade County Commissioner. The board still has one open position. All board members are members of the Sturgis community and dedicated to bringing the meals program back to Meade County. "I consider it a privilege to serve on this board of committed community leaders whose sole purpose is providing nutritious meals to the folks in our community who need it most," said Roth, board vice president.

The next board meeting will be held on June 12 at 1:15 p.m. at Sturgis City Hall. Community members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Anyone who has questions about the Sturgis Nutrition Program Board can contact Deb Baker at (605) 347-3077.